DUMP THE DEBT

- CANCEL ALL THE DEBT
- DESTROY IMF/WTO
- REPARATIONS FOR THE GLOBAL SOUTH
- CAN'T PAY - DON'T PAY
- SHUT DOWN THE G8

REVOLUTION

socialist youth movement

30P / DONATION • ISSUE 70

EDITORIAL

The news has been full of election propaganda lately. Various rich men in suits have been touting their various brands of 'real alternatives' and directions, if you're sick of baby kissing and photo posing then read on...**The world we can see today proves one thing beyond any doubt: the system is failing the vast majority of the people.**

30,000 children are dying of curable diseases in the world's poor countries every day, Iraq is a pile of rubble with US troops guarding US owned oil pipelines and here in the UK the NHS, the education system and our public services are all being sold off and cut back. Meanwhile a few billionaires live in the lap of luxury. This system is capitalism. It is a system of huge profits for the rich and peanuts for the poor. It is a system of war and environment crisis. Its this system we have to fight.

In Britain the Labour Party is a party founded by working class people that was meant to fight against the rich. But instead it is governing for the rich. Not only have they **attacked and occupied Iraq, they have forced through cuts on benefits, privatisation of public services and racist attacks on asylum.** All so they could get the support of the rich, the media barons and big business.

With the election coming up Blair's Labour has started talking about solving the world's problems. How convenient that its in election year that Blair will fight global poverty! **But don't believe the lies - Blair's loyalty is to the rich not the poor. Him and his party don't deserve our vote in the election** (if you're old enough to vote!).

What is our alternative to all of this? We need to fight for a new working class party. One that isn't just Old Labour mark 2 but is a genuine fighting organisation of the working class and fights for working class politics not just in parliament and councils but on every demonstration, strike and picket line across the country. **A party that fights for a socialist world where the working class call the shots not the capitalists. To get there we will need a revolution against global capitalism.**

We've just had our conference where we decided how we were going to build our group over the coming year. We have launched a campaign of direct action against world debt and are organising to shut down the G8 when it comes to Britain later this year. **Read on, get active, get involved and join Revolution!**

LETTERS

LETTER FROM MARIO!

Mario is an imprisoned anti facist activist in Slovakia, he was sentenced to prison for 12 years for the 'crime' of defending his brother from a fascist attack.
He is a member of REVOLUTION

Dear comrades

Thank you very much for your picture postcards which I received. This encouraged me very much. I also received magazines in Spanish language from comrade Gunnar. On Saturday, I had a visitor – my brother, Edo. He told me about the paper workers struggling for better conditions in Ruzomberok. I'm always very happy when I can see my brother.

So now several words about my temporary situation. Ilava is the most strict prison in Slovakia. I'm in Group C – the worst prisoners in the non-smoker cell. But here it is calm. There were seven in the great cell. We have TV in the cell. We are constantly under lock down only get out for a walk and for table tennis. I went for a course in gardening in another prison (Zeliezovce) but I stayed there only two weeks. I asked to come back to Ilava because the conditions at the other prison were much worse.

So my day in prison begins at about 6am. I must make my bed and then the guards count us. We clean our cells and afterwards I read or watch TV. About 10am we go out of our cells to play table tennis. Then its lunch and we go for about an hour's walk. I am learning several French and Spanish words. And of course watching several serials on TV. So this is my day.

Thanks so much for thinking about me. I often think about my family and comrades. I believe in the victory of our ideas. Stand strong. I send greetings to all our comrades.
Viva the world revolution!

With Revolutionary greetings
Mario Bango

NO PLACE FOR ANTI-SEMITISM ON THE LEFT

One of the most-frequently aimed attacks at anti-Zionists is that they are anti-Semitic, both in method and doctrine. While this is easy to rebut and dismiss, is it possible that people are using left-sounding language to conceal anti-Semitic beliefs?

At a recent left wing meeting in London I heard something pretty sick.

"…I call them [elements of the US Administration] Zionists because if I mention their religion I will be called an anti-Semite." Speaker from the floor at an Iraq Occupation Focus meeting, December 2004

This is an utter fallacy. The most vociferous supporters of Zionism in the USA are of the Christian right.

To be Jewish is not necessarily to be a Zionist. To be anti-zionist doesn't mean your anti-semitic. To be anti-zionist doesn't mean you think the 'elders of zion' secretly rule the world from dimly lit rooms.

This is what happens when people lose sight of class interests and antagonisms as the driving force of events.The ruling class of a country will oppress the workers regardless. There is a profit to be made, and it cannot be made without exploitation.

This situation gets complicated by imperialism and semi-colonialism, but the principles remain the same. There may be systematic racism in imperialism, but it is an extension of Bourgeois ideology- a method for furthering exploitation, not the other way around. There is no place for talk about 'jews in the American administration' screwing us over. There is an urgent need to fight american imperialism and Isreali aggression against Palestine.
Marc, London

Revolution can make capitalism history!

Revolution National Conference report

On the 2nd and 3rd of April, Revolution held it's UK national conference in London which was attended by approximately 50 activists from across the country. It was a brilliant opportunity for young revolutionaries to get to know each other, both through political debates and chatting in the ULU bar afterwards! We looked back over the previous year and what we had been doing, then broke down into various workshops to look more closely at diferent campaigns and political issues that would be coming up over the next few months.

Over lunch on the Saturday we held a women's caucus and a men's anti-sexist meeting both of which went very well. Issues such as women taking leadership roles within the organisation, sexism in the workplace and pornography were discusses in both meetings. The decisions that came out of these two meetings were that more female members should write articles for the paper, that at least 50% of the National Council should be female and that there should be more meetings and actions aimed at women and issues that affect them.

The conference was good for developing REVO politically over the next year. As well as discussions on the problems of capitalism and how to fight them we also came out with concrete campaigning ideas. Over the next year we will be focusing on building for a protest to shut down the G8 and we'll also be launching a campaign of direct action aimed at ending third word debt (more info on the centre page spread).

The other step forward that REVO took at conference was an organisational one. Last year we elected a National Council for the first time in order that we could better co-ordinate our work and make REVO more representative of its members and this year we (alongside other REVO groups in different countries) have started taking a much more internationalist direction that before. We elected 5 people to go to the REVO international delegates meeting in Vienna and approved a draft of the REVO international constitution which will help us work together better internationally.

All in all, the conference was a good one. Meeting other young revolutionaries from across the UK and getting the chance to talk to them about how to change the world was a very positive experience, and with the campaigns and politics we agreed on at conference then we can bring that change closer.

IDEAS INTO ACTION!

Resolution adopted by Revo Conference 05

1. Since the 2003 ESF in Paris Revolution has fought for a Revolutionary Youth International calling on youth sections of trade unions, political parties and social movements to organise a united political struggle against capitalism internationally. This has been and will remain the defining feature of our intervention into the anticapitalist movement.

2. The real test of the success of the European Social Forum in London will come in the mobilisation for the protests that will greet the G8 summit in Scotland this year. Judging from the publicity already generated by the Make Poverty History(MPH) campaign we can reasonably expect huge mobilisations. While we welcome tens of thousands more young people entering the broadly defined anticapitalist movement having been organised by MPH, we recognise that the demands and strategy of MPH are completely liberal and reformist, i.e. not anticapitalist in reality. They call for 'trade justice, drop the debt and 'better aid'' yet they do not will the means by which to do it.

4. To challenge the feeble neo-reformism of MPH we will launch a campaign called 'Dump the Debt' that will fight for these key demands. The campaign will have a direct action core targeting the corporations, governments and finance institutions that are bleeding the third world dry through the huge levels of debt.

5. At the G8 Alternative Summit in Edinburgh we will seek to hold a Youth Assembly drawing in young activists from across the anticapitalist movement. This will be a key platform to argue for a very short declaration putting our key slogans on the debt and against the war/occupation, and calling for the formation of a Revolutionary Youth International to unite young people in the struggle against the capitalist system.

6. 2005 is also likely to see a General Election. After 8 years of government thousands of workers have seen the Labour Party for what it is - a party of imperialist war, neo-liberalism and racism. We will argue for no vote for Labour at the polls and use the opportunity of the elections to fight for a new working class party won to a revolutionary socialist programme.

7. After 8 years of Labour rule the biggest beneficiaries of its policy have been the far right BNP using the governments anti-refugee policy to justify its programme of race hate. We will continue to play an active role in the Asylum Lies campaign challenging the government, media and fascist lies about Asylum Seekers and seeking to build not just an anti-fascist movement but a working class anti racist movement that sights capitalism as the roots of racism. A section of the relaunched website will be dedicated to the Asylum Lies campaign.

8. The last year has seen increased pressure from the Catholic Church appealing to dubious scientific evidence regarding the sentient life of pre-born babies to argue for cutting the maximum limit for abortion from 24 to 16 weeks. We will fight for the women's right to choose and free abortion on demand. A section of the relaunched website will be dedicated to this campaign. We will also fight against attacks on young peoples right to access free, confidential and impartial advice on abortion and sexual health. As well as this we will fight against the 'global gag rule' bought in by George Bush to deny funding to any organisation promoting contraception or abortion.

This resolution was edited down so we could fit it in. The full resolution is on www.worldrevolution.org.uk

DEFEND THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE

by Jo in Leeds

Before 1967, 35,000 women were hospitalised each year as a result of backstreet abortions. It was in 1967 that the law was introduced to legalise abortion. It revolutionised the lives of hundred's of thousands of women who could now control their own fertility instead of having to turn to dangerous, illegal operations. The right to free abortion on demand is a one that women have fought for. But now, due to moral hysteria and distorted statistics, the Church and right wing politicians are attempting to roll back the clock.

One of the Tories' election promises is to cut back the upper limit for abortion from 24 weeks to 20. Michael Howard is backed by the Catholic Church, whose archbishop is now calling for a Tory vote, swung away from labour by the issue of abortion. Although Tony Blair himself, despite not calling for immediate cuts, has said that due to advances in technology, "we may have to look at the whole question again".

So are we going to sit back while politicians, the state and the Church use our bodies as an election issue? We cannot afford to have abortion rights cut any further. The upper limit has already been reduced once. In 1990, it was lowered from 28 weeks down to 24.

One in three women will have an abortion in her lifetime yet still they are ridiculously under funded with a quarter of women having to pay to get the operation. And for those who can't afford it, it is a postcode lottery to get an abortion on the NHS.

The medical community is massively slanted against abortion. As if an abortion isn't a traumatic experience enough, you have to justify your decision. The baby must be pose a "serious threat to your mental or physical health" and this must be approved my two doctors. On top of this doctors can refuse to give permission to a woman for an abortion "on moral grounds". Medical students can abstain from abortion training also on these so-called "moral grounds". So the choice is removed from the woman and given to the doctor. It is a gift or privilege, conferred by the doctor.

Medical technology has played a major part in the argument against abortion, making it possible to keep premature babies alive at younger ages. This poses a dilemma. How can a doctor be fighting to keeping a premature baby alive then terminating a pregnancy at the same stage. The dilemma is very easily solved if you look at it not starting from the baby but from the woman. If you want your pregnancy to end in birth then you have every right for doctors to keep that baby alive using whatever technology available. But, in the other hand if a woman wants to terminate her pregnancy, at whatever stage, she has just as much right to do so.

The argument against aborting a foetus because it is "potential life" is the one used by religious and pro-life groups and one supported by the media to pull on emotions and feelings to obscure the facts and attack our rights. A foetus is not a life, a potential one maybe, but not a life. It has no rights; it is totally dependant on the woman's body. The recent development of 4D ultrasounds has meant you can see the image of the foetus inside the womb looks more like a "real baby". These images have been used repeatedly in the media against abortion. For example in the Daily Mail where they've shown a foetus sucking it's thumb. But it is not being able to suck your thumb that makes you a person. What makes a person is the way we interact socially and our experiences, a foetus doesn't have this.

So why do REVOLUTION fight for abortion? Women need the right to choose the fate of our own bodies. We plan the rest of our lives so why can't we plan out families as well? The harsh reality of Capitalism is that the burden of childcare does fall on the woman to do. There is a big practical element to abortion for many women. With an almost total lack of socialised childcare, women are forced to either give up their jobs completely (leaving them isolated) or work part time for low wages. That is, of course, apart from the very thin layer of lucky, upper and middle class women who can afford to buy themselves out of the family with expensive childcare. One average three women a day register claims against unfair dismissal related to abortion. Attacks on abortion will disproportionably affect working class women who can't afford a private abortion or the give up their jobs to support an unwanted child.

Most late abortions are for young women who have been too ashamed to tell their families about the pregnancy. Reducing the upper time limits for abortion will hit the most vulnerable parts of society: young, working class women.

Developments in contraception, like the pill, have been developments in women's liberation. But it is not enough. We must not just fight against the proposed cuts but against the current restricted abortion rights too; for free abortion on demand, as early as possible but as late as necessary. We must fight for comprehensive sex education, free and easy access to contraception and the morning after pill. Only when we have total control of our own bodies can women be liberated.

Women and debt

By Joy in London

The appointment of Paul Wolfowitz as the next president of the World Bank was a shock to many people but George Monbiot was correct in saying that Wolfowitz was the right man for the job. George Bush pushed Wolfowitz forward for the job because he will continue with the corporate-led agenda for "development" that has been bleeding the Third World dry for three decades. Wolfowitz was influential in selling the Iraq war to the American public; he was very comfortable as US ambassador in Suharto's Indonesia, never raising any objection to the dictatorship and oppression of the East Timorese.

The idea that the World Bank wants to make the world a better place, alleviate global poverty and re-distribute wealth is a myth that they themselves have constructed to make themselves more palatable to the majority of the world's population. It is similar to the way that the G8 has taken up the issue of Africa when it is acting in the interest of the multinational companies that have ripped the resources from the war-torn, famine countries of that continent.

'If only someone else was in charge of the World Bank, things would be better and the balance of power would be shifted towards what the World Bank is really there for - to help Third World countries out of debt,' say many NGOs, churches, charities and other liberally types. Wrong! The history of the World Bank and IMF proves just that - and nothing illustrates this better than the effect their policies have had on women.

World Bank loans and the subsequent structural adjustment programs

(SAPs) the countries had to sign up to, to get the loans in the first place, forced open the doors for multinational companies to come in - making nation states open their markets to a wide-ranging array of privatisations including health and welfare, social benefits, education, transport, water and much more that is normally provided by the state.

Women's unemployment has increased due to IMF-induced recessions, privatisations and government cutbacks. In central Asia, women have been the targets of dramatic job losses as state-owned companies are sold to the private sector. Women's unemployment averages 70% in Armenia, Russia, Bulgaria, Croatia, and tops 80% in the Ukraine. Sweatshops, whose workers are predominantly women, have sprung up as they are by IMF policies.

SAPs have stripped women of what meagre health and education benefits were once available to them. These privatisations affect women to a greater degree because the majority of women work in the public sector, but they also impact in the private sphere of 'women's work.' So not only would women lose their jobs as nurses or teachers and lose their income, but also a greater burden is placed on women as carers in the family.

The effects of the World Bank and IMF policies have devastated food production that provides income to households. In Africa, women farmers are responsible for the majority of food production.

For women in Asia, export led growth has taken a different dimension. Not only do women work in the special Export Processing Zones, but also they are becoming themselves a big export. The majority of women migrants are service workers - domestic helpers, entertainers and related work - subject to harsh living and working conditions and vulnerable to sexual abuse and violence. Of the 2800 Filipino maids that work in the US, the World Bank and IMF employ 2000 of them.

REVOLUTION campaigns for destroying these institutions - the World Bank, IMF, G8 and World Trade Organisation. Nixing them, not fixing them because fundamentally they cannot be fixed: they are the instruments of imperialism and will back up their 'free trade' with military might. Their reason for existing is to continue the exploitation of workers, women, youth and peasants and to force more people into poverty and misery. They drive forward the system of profit that we live under -capitalism.

We believe that it is not enough to try and 'fine tune' capitalism; it must be smashed and replaced with a system that is run by the people for the people - socialism. So look out Wolfowitz here we come!

Read the next issue of Revo when we will talk about the women that fought back!

March in London against the occupation of Iraq

On March 19th in London 100,000 protesters took to the streets against the occupation of Iraq. The demonstration was part of the international mobilisation against the occupation that saw thousands march in towns and cities across the globe on the same day.

Revolution groups from across the UK marched together in a loud, lively and militant contingent. As we marched past the US Embassy we loudly chanted 'shut it down'. As the march continued through London's streets we called for the active solidarity to the Iraqi resistance to aid its heroic fight against the US occupation. And, as we entered Trafalgar Square at the end of the demonstration we raised our trade mark slogan 'one solution - revolution' against the capitalist system that leads to imperialist war.

We used the opportunity of the demonstration to launch our new campaign against third world debt - 'Dump the Debt'. Over the coming months in the run up to the G8 meeting in Scotland we intend to build lively protest and direct action around the issue targeting the banks and financial institutions that are bleeding the third world dry. Our message throughout was 'next stop Gleneagles where we will shut down the meeting of the G8'.

DUMP T

A SYSTEM OF GLOBA

The eight most powerful nations in the world are known as the G8. Their heads of state meet once a year to discuss global economic and political strategy. Tony Blair and some of the other G8 leaders have made much of their promises for a "new deal" for the world's poor, including debt write-offs and more aid. But will it work? In a word - No. The proposals will hardly scratch the surface of the problems faced by the poorest countries.

'Free' trade

Free trade means huge North American, European and Japanese corporations can move their production effortlessly across borders in search of lower wages and costs. "Third World" countries, which want the jobs and industrialisation these companies bring, have to provide the cheapest possible labour, creating a race to the bottom that means the poor are getting poorer and the rich are getting ever richer. This trade is not "free" at all, but is weighted heavily in favour of the rich nations and their corporate giants. African industries have little access to European, American and Japanese markets. In their own countries imports from these nations undercut local producers.

Aid?

Aid, just like debt, is used as a political weapon by the biggest capitalist countries. "Third World" nations often have to open up their markets to western capital as a condition for receiving aid. Or they are forced to spend the aid on goods from the countries that provide it. "Aid" is usually in the form of loans from either the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank or the private banks - all of which charge excessive interest.

Corruption

In the cold war, the US and European countries supported dictators, like Saddam in Iraq and Mobuto in Zaire. This continues today. In Venezuela last year, the US backed the military coup against the democratically elected government of Hugo Chavez, because he had nationalised the oil industry, and put the profits into free healthcare. George Bush criticises the corruption of "Third World" governments, without saying that it was the rich governments and corporations that corrupted them - and then armed them to the teeth to defend them against their own people!

Growth: good for the rich, NOT good for the poor

In the 50 years between 1948 and 1998, global income per head grew by 250%. But this does not mean every person got their share. This growth lined the pockets of the rich, not the poor. In 1960, the poorest 20% of the world's people had a measly 2.3% share of global income; by 1991, this had fallen to an even smaller 1.4%. If wealth "trickled down" from rich to poor, then the astonishing wealth accumulated over the past 50 years by the rich would have long ago eliminated poverty for good. It has not, and it will not.

The rich are the powerful

As billions live in poverty, a handful of wealthy parasites live in astonishing luxury.

- The assets of the 200 richest people on the planet are worth more than the total annual income of the bottom 41 per cent of the world's people.
- Three Families – the Gates' (Microsoft), the Waltons (Walmart) and the Brunei Royal Family – have a combined wealth of $135 billion, equivalent to the incomes of 600 million people living in the world's poorest countries.
- The collective wealth of the 691 billionaires in the world is $2.2 trillion.

Inequality is not only grotesque; it is growing. Nor is it just in the "Third World" that this great divide is felt. The past 20 years in Britain has seen a massive widening of the gap between rich and poor. The wealthiest 10 per cent increased their share of total wealth from 46 per cent to 54 per cent

How *not* to make poverty history

By Tim in Leicester

Many people would think that Make Poverty History is the best way, as it has gained a lot of support with celebrity backing and wristbands. But is it the answer?

REVOLUTION says no - it doesn't go far enough. There strategy is to have one demonstration in Edinburgh before the G8 to 'lobby' the leaders. Then, instead of staying for the counter summit and the protests at the beginning of the G8 they want everyone to get transport home.

And, what are they arguing for?

They call for only the cancellation of 'unpayable' debt. What a vague term! In reality if a debt is unpayable then it is already been cancelled because the governments and banks won't get the money back. Why not fight for the cancellation of the entire 2.2 trillion dollar debt owed by the poor countries of the global south?

They also call for 'more aid and fairer trade' - but again this is deliberately vague. We need to massive reparations paid to the people's of the global south owed to them after year's theft of natural and human resources by the rich states. This could found a massive programme of public work to really develop the poor countries of the third world.

Make Poverty History demands so little that even Blair's government is happy to play along with it.

HE

L POVERTY

between 1990 and 2001.

The institutions of poverty

Over the last ten years, the G8 has forged a common agenda for the opening up of "Third World" economies to "free" trade, the dismantling of welfare provision, and the strengthening and restructuring of their military to enforce these policies. International institutions, like the World Trade Organisation, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, have been established or strengthened to regulate this pro-market agenda. The IMF has become infamous for forcing "Third world" economies to adopt "structural adjustment programmes" (now hypocritically restyled "poverty reduction programmes"), that cut even the most basic welfare provision, in order to service debts to the rich nations and banks, and hand over local industries to foreign buyers.

The broken promises of yesterday

When the G8 last visited Britain in 1998, the campaign Jubilee 2000 demanded the abolition of all "Third World" debt by the turn of the century. They mobilised 60,000 people to protest against the G8 in Birmingham. This was part of a worldwide movement against the debt of the poor countries. In response, the IMF strengthened its Highly Indebted Poor Country Initiative that had been established in 1996. This was their attempt to provide debt relief for the world's poor, mainly through loan consolidation and restructuring. And, as a result, debt burdens have gone – UP! In 2003, these countries owed $2.423 billion; by 2005, the amount had risen to $2.566 billion.

What are they promising today?

Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have recently made proposals, aimed at tackling global poverty. Blair is promising to cut the debts the 60 poorest nations owe to the World Bank, by just 10%. Even this is a fraction of those countries' total debt, two-thirds of which is owed by private banks anyhow. He set up an Africa Commission that has proposed that the G8 completely cancel the continent's debt and increase aid to $16 billion. This it claims will eliminate poverty on the continent. It won't. Even if the promises are acted upon. In reality the US will either veto them or water them down. The old free trade recipe of opening markets will not give African states sovereignty over their own economies. It will benefit corporate billionaires, not the billions who live in poverty. In the 19th century, they called this imperialism – and the name still fits today.

Members of London Revo building the dump the debt campaign

Revolution is building for the Make Poverty History demonstration at the G8. We want to use it as a stepping stone to build a mass movement that can fight the system that causes poverty: capitalism.

We are not naive enough to believe that just because Bob Geldhoff and Bono are going to ask the G8 leaders to 'make poverty history' they will end the pillaging of the so called 'developing world' by the mega corporations. Gordon Brown is in favour of making poverty history on paper but he has made it a reality through his chancellorship during which the poorest in Britain have got poorer and voting for a war on Iraq that has left millions of Iraqis starving and homeless.

Rather than cosying up to big business and politicians who represent them and hoping that they will do something about it out of them being good spirited we think that the only way that the G8 countries will make any shift on the issue of debt is if they are pushed into it. We can do this by building a campaign of direct action and stunts targeting the poverty profiteers and by building a massive militant protest to shut down the G6 in Gleneagles this July.

20,000 take part in vigil for trade justice

On Friday April 16, around 20,000 took part in an all night vigil for trade justice around Whitehall in central London. Just before midnight thousands we packed the street in front of Downing street chanting: "Poverty. History! Poverty. History!"

The Wake Up to Trade Justice event was organised by the Trade Justice Movement - a coalition of 65 UK organisations - and was part of a series of global events held from 10-16 April.

The crowd was made up of thousands of young people from al over Britain,

Radiohead singer Thom Yorke, also performed an acoustic set later in the night.

Organiser Glen Tarman said: "This event should be a wake-up call for political leaders of all the main parties - if elected, they must make sure urgent action is taken if we are to have justice in international trade and start to make poverty history in 2005.

"This was the biggest mass protest of the election campaign yet. We are making world poverty a doorstep issue."

¬If the size of this vigil on a cold spring night is anything to go by, it means the G8 protest on July 2-6 in Scotland will be massive.

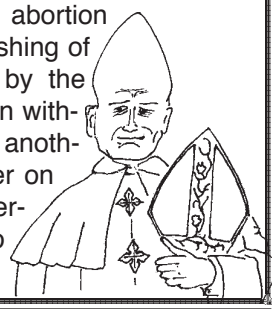
REVOLUTION CONFRONT BLAIR ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Having cancelled an appearance in Bethnal Green so as to avoid a planned protest by anti-war activists, Blair headed north, turning up in Leeds on 20th April. Despite the short notice Revolution activists responded in an attempt to piss all over Tony's metaphorical bonfire. As Blair prepared to leave the Leeds Ibis hotel Revo members made sure he got the only welcome he deserved. As the assembled press prepared to get an interview, Blair was hit with a barrage of chants and screams that wiped that trademark grin off his face and ensured he was sent packing without the chance to plug the Labour campaign to the media.

Obituary to the Pope

After twenty six years as the head of the Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II did the world a favour on April 3rd and relieved us all of his presence.

JP II has allegedly held the longest papacy ever, dodging an early attempt to cut it short when he survived a shooting in 1981 and stubbornly remaining 'gods voice on earth' for two and a half decades. Famed for touring the world in his glass-domed pope-mobile, the late Pontiff was one of the poorer excuses for human-life among the leadership of the Catholic Church. Virulently sexist, homophobic and pro-life, the ever benevolent scumbag proclaimed to people in Africa that it was wrong to use condoms as protection against HIV/AIDS and up to his dying day, fought tooth and nail against abortion rights. However, the initial joy of hearing about the perishing of the poisonous old bastard was of course diffused by the appointment of the new Pope; Joseph Ratzinger. Known within the church as 'God's Rotweiler' it sounds like there's another two decades of religious bigotry of the highest oirder on the books for the worlds catholics.... and poses the interesting question for them,; With a pope like him, who needs the devil?



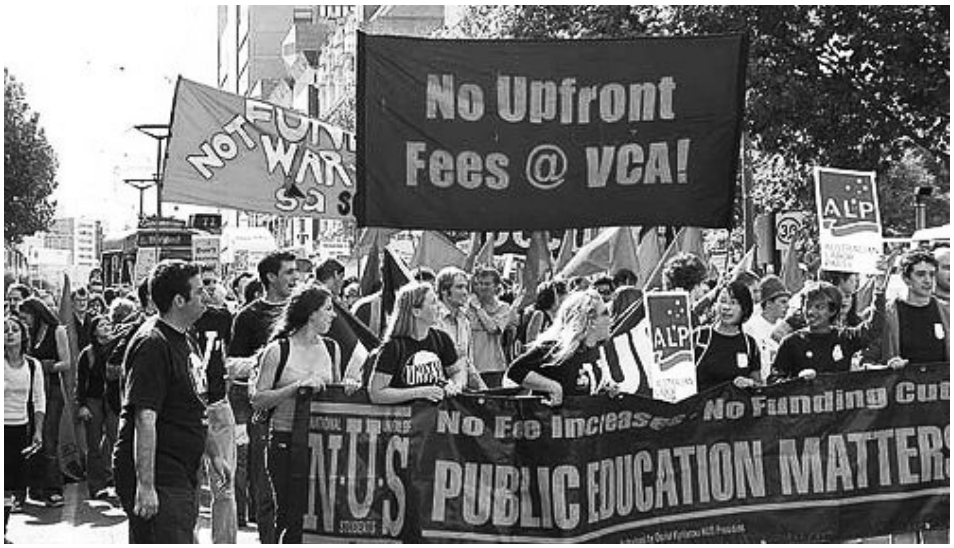
NUS Conference 2005 do they represent us?

By Sam, Tom and James in Blackpool

Around 800 students gathered in Blackpool between 5-7 April for the annual conference of the NUS. Compared to previous years, the conference was small, due to massive cuts pushed through in the past year.

The NUS itself was the main item on the agenda, in the 'Strong and active unions' debate, as right-wing elements proposed further cuts to the democracy of the NUS. However the existing 'Block of 12' part-time executive officers - which is elected by proportional representation ensuring that minority voices are heard - was defended, and the conference made a very positive step forwards against the right-wing 'anti-politics' agenda, by committing to fight against "ultra vires" laws which dictate what political activities students' unions are and aren't allowed to do. Religious politics were as usual a theme that ran throughout the conference, with various reactionary religious organisations uniting to defeat a motion opposing faith schools. The education debate also saw right-leaning delegates opposing a national demonstration against tuition fees in the Autumn. Shockingly, they won and the NUS won't be holding a demo this year.

The welfare debate, though low down the agenda, produced some positive results, notably committing NUS to fight fascism and defend asylum seekers, to uphold the no platform for fascists policy, and to defend abortion rights. These policies came up against a lot of opposition, right-leaning delegates who claim to represent students rather than political tendencies, trotted out the same old rubbish about No Platform policies that we always hear from right-wing appeasers of fascism. The motion on defending abortion rights was passed after a lengthy debate and a recounted vote - possibly the closest of the entire conference - as the reality of electing delegates who are only political because of their religious beliefs became clear.



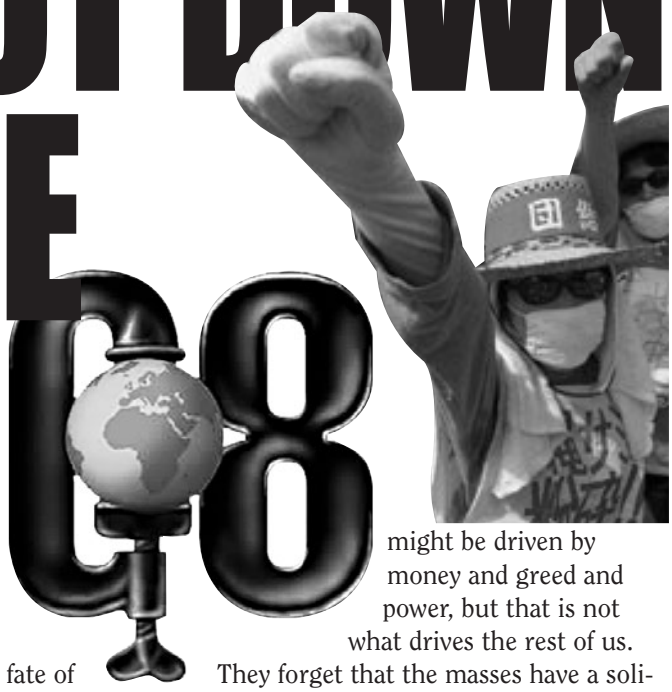
N.U.S: Fighting for the student voice or a bureaucrats playground?

Elections of the new national executive committee took up a lot of conference time. Kat Fletcher, who was elected on a 'left' platform last year but has moved so far into the centre that its not hard to forsee her as a Labour candidate next time around, was re-elected President, and the other five full-time candidates were all won by non-political candidates - which doesn't bode well for campaigning.

A real ray of light came in the form of an emergency motion from the Killer Coke campaign, which REVOLUTION had a hand in drafting. The motion, which should see NUS taking steps towards beginning a boycott of Coca-Cola as called for by the SINATRAINAL union in Colombia, was passed by a large majority, much to the disdain of the anti-politics hacks.

If you are wondering what NUS had to say about Iraq, Palestine, or the environment, issues which young people have taken to the streets in their thousands over recently, well the answer is nothing. Due to the cuts made by right-wingers who claim that the NUS should only concern itself with issues that 'affect students as students', there was no time for debates on motions put forward on those topics and it was time for everyone to go home. It is quite obvious that such cuts have only been made because the Right can't stand to see NUS taking a stand against the actions of their heroes in the Labour and Tory parties, and we must fight further proposed cuts every step of the way.

SHUT DOWN THE G8



Kam from London

The G8 -a meeting of the biggest capitalists in the world is taking place this July in Gleneagles to decide the fate of billions of people around the world. The G8 is the organising centre for world imperialism, for capitalist domination and exploitation of the worlds poor. Their summits have been the site of massive, militant protests over the last few years, one of which in Genoa in 2001 had 300,000 people protesting. The protest was so heavily repressed by the police that one young activists Guliani was shot and killed by the police.

The G8 are trying to put up a so called caring front by appearing to tackle third world poverty- but we know how horribly deceiving this is- debt repayments have increased under the G8 rule thanks to the IMF and World Bank and wretched trade laws which favour the rich western companies have strangled the third world to death. As for the sickening idea that capitalism can in any way be caring- what a joke! We can never trust capitalists to create 'humane' policies for the rest of us when they decide who eats more than who, who dies under bombs, who dies of diseases- the list is endless. These capitalists who have made money out of wars, out of poverty and out of the suffering of millions of innocent people must not be left to decide the fate of the world.

This is the most important meeting for the capitalists and this is why we should be there- to shut the summit down- to prevent them from destroying and wrecking more lives and creating more laws to terrorise us with. The capitalists might be driven by money and greed and power, but that is not what drives the rest of us. They forget that the masses have a solidarity with each other around the world, as they clearly were reminded when millions from all over the world marched against the war in Iraq. Capitalist media will try to convince us that we are naturally competitive, that we only care for our own lives. If this is true, then why are we fighting to end capitalism? Why do we fight for peoples freedoms and lives knowing that we may be better off than them, people we may never meet from the third world or the middle east or Latin America or workers and oppressed people from our countries too?

The media and the police will try and scare protestors away, they will try and demonise the demonstrators and plant stories in the press about how nasty all these 'anarchist protestors' are going to be. Well, don't be fooled by the lies! We need a mass demonstration that unites people from all over Europe to stand in solidarity with the global south and send a message to the G8. This world does not belong to 8 people! Unfortunately, 6 billion of us cannot all be there to tell these leaders what we really think of their policies, so for those of us who can make it, lets not miss this chance to oppose the G8 summit, to shut it down, to take our message of solidarity and to continue the fight to end capitalism for good!

Join Revolution and thousands of other anti-capitalists from around the world in the protests against this years G8 Summit at Gleneagles, July 2-6, Scotland

Wanker of the Month

PAUL WOLFOWITZ

When the G8 are talking about debt relief, and supposedly wanting to make everything better for Africa and make the world's climate a little better, you might have thought that they would have asked someone who had a little understanding about the problems Africa faces and is compassionate towards their plight.

But step forward Paul Wolfowitz, Bush's man for head of the World Bank.

In his previous jobs for the US Government, this raging neo-conservative was the architect of the "Project For The New American Century", a group of hard-line neo-conservatives who want to impose American domination of the world militarily and economically.

He's worked for six previous US presidents, including Democrat Jimmy Carter, but he has always held firm in his pro-imperialist beliefs. A biography in the Guardian puts it simply: "a belief in the importance of military power and that America is a force for good in the world, a distrust of the Soviet Union and of America's intelligence agencies, and a disdain for the Kissinger doctrines of detente and containment." That means he supports bombs, bomb and more bombs on Åerogue statesÅf that donÅft play ball with US foreign policy.

Now he has taken the job as head of the World Bank, just after being one of the leading lights in the Bush regime and his hawkish support for the invasion of Iraq and the creator of the reconstruction plan (read: theft of Iraqi oil). His appointment has been seen as a slap in the face to the rest of the world.

That's why Paul Wolfowitz is our Wanker of the Month, and also one of the many reasons why we should try to shut down the G8 when they gather in Gleneagles this July.

Rover: "The ugliest face of capitalism"

"The ugliest face of capitalism". Not the words of militant socialists but of Britain's top bosses' paper, the Financial Times. They were describing the betrayal of 6,000 Rover car workers by their asset stripping bosses.

The last remaining British-owned volume auto manufacturer, MG Rover, faces closure following the collapse of takeover talks with the Chinese government-owned manufacturer Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation (SAIC). The closure threatens the loss of 6,100 jobs at Rover's plant in Longbridge, Birmingham, as well as an estimated ten to twenty thousand jobs at component suppliers.

The timing of the announcement of the breakdown of takeover talks and the collapse of the company is a blow for Blair's government, coming suddenly and unexpectedly at the end of the first week of the British general election campaign. But Rover has long been one of the most vulnerable corporations in a global auto industry plagued by chronic over-capacity. That is why union leaders such as Transport and General Workers Union general secretary Tony Woodley were so keen on the SAIC takeover - a deal which would have saved British jobs... by guaranteeing the loss of at least two thousand jobs at Longbridge.

Rover was "rescued" less than five years ago when the previous owners, the German auto corporation BMW, sold the company to the present bosses of the Phoenix consortium for £10. Now Tony Blair and Gordon Brown, with Tony Woodley's enthusiastic backing, want to reopen negotiations with the Chinese to sell the company on what are bound to be even less favourable terms, with more jobs lost and further deteriorations in working conditions for those who are kept on.

Both the British government and SAIC blame the collapse of the original takeover negotiations on Phoenix's tardy disclosure of the extent of Rover's debts. Since the collapse of the talks, it has emerged that there may be a further £200 million or more gap in the company accounts. The bosses since 2000, John Towers and the others in the 'Phoenix Four', have milked the corporation systematically, moving funds from the Rover company to others in the Phoenix group. Estimates of how much they have paid themselves in salaries, bonuses and pension provisions range from a minimum of £30 million to upwards of £50 million. They have squandered the "dowry" of £247 million from BMW that came with the company in 2000. Worst of all they have left a huge gap in the workers' pension fund.

The British government and SAIC are now demanding to see all Rover's accounts. Doubtless the same demand will come from the other vultures that are beginning to gather seeking a share of Rover's remaining prime assets including the land and the successful MG brand.

Why can't we all see where the millions have gone? The trade unions must demand the books be opened for inspection by the Longbridge workers and their unions.

The fat cats at the top of the pole, the Managing Directors and the Senior Chief Executives will not be loosing out. They'll still have their massive salaries and still sit on their arses all day. The people that will loose out in this debacle will be the ordinary worker. When it comes to "cuts", "economisation" and "efficiency", it's the working class that feel the burden. The bosses loose nothing, they keep their over-inflated positions behind a desk signing checks and controlling the lives of their workers.

If there is to be a future for Longbridge, the plant needs to be nationalised under workers control.

This is the only way of guaranteeing either car production or production of socially useful goods using the many skills of Longbridge workers. Workers at Longbridge and the associated industries have a right to demand Work or Full Pay and full pension rights.

With Labour at the height of a general election campaign, the time is right to raise these demands. Rover stewards should call together workers representatives from the components industry - and indeed from across Birmingham as all sectors are affected - to form an Action Committee and organise the fight back.

Labour can be forced to concede, but only under the pressure of militant working class action in defence of jobs, beginning with a workers' occupation at Longbridge.

Films that you should try and see:

Downfall - this movie is historic as the first German film since 1945 to feature Hitler as a main character. The movie is set in the last 10 days of the Nazi Third Reich in Germany, Hitler effectively locked up in his bunker deluding himself that the war can still be won.

Bullet Boy - Starring Ashley D from So Solid crew as a young black man released from Prison and trying to escape from the cycle of crime and poverty that traps so many Black British youth. It has won a lot of critical acclaim from black interest groups and film reviewers, and as an insight into young life for black youth in the inner cities it is definitely worth catching.

If anyone sees either (or both!) of these films and wants to write a review for the next issue of REVO then send it into us at info@worldrevolution.org.uk

Workers from around the world used to celebrate 12th of May as international workers day, the one day of the year in the west that people had as a holiday that didn't have religious links. The 1st of May in 1886 was to be the first day in the USA that workers would work no longer than 8 hours. Before then workers had to work 10, 12 or even 14 hour days in difficult, dangerous conditions in mines and sweatshops. The workers movement campaigned really hard for the 8 hour day, they even called a general strike to start on Mayday if the demand was not met by the government. In Chicago in the USA in 1886 tens of thousands of people protested and fighting with the police led to many injuries and deaths. A rally at Haymarket on May 3rd where an unknown person in the crowd threw a bomb ended with the police shooting into the workers, resulting in more death.

When the second international was formed in 1889 they declared Mayday an international workers day, and used the red flag (like REVOs red flags!) to symbolise the bloody sheets that wrapped the bodies of dead workers after the massacre at Haymarket.

After World War 2 the workers movement stopped celebrating Mayday in the same way until more recently when the militant anti capitalist movement injected new life into it. Between 2000 and 2003 in London tens of thousands of activists and protestors would turn out on lively and militant protests against capitalist. These would often be part organised by Anarchists but at the height of the protests recently trade unions began to get involved again and lots of young people would be attracted to the demonstrations in London.

Mayday may have started to recede into the background again, but it is important to remember what it means. Millions of working people and youth around the world celebrate Mayday as a workers day where we stand up for ourselves against the bosses and their governments. To find out about Mayday activity in your area contact REVO at info@worldrevolution.org.uk and try and come on some of the demos!

Road to nowhere...

The anarchists in the UK have set up a network called 'Dissent' to build for the G8 in Gleneagles in July. Its goal is to create a mass activist network across the country that can organise an effective blockade of the summit and shut it down. We agree with shutting down the G8 through mass direct action protest, unfortunately Dissent's method of doing it is not going to cut it!

If you read their website it says, "The Network has no central office, no spokespeople, no membership list and no paid staff. It's a mechanism for communication and co-ordination between local groups and working groups" What Dissent want to create is what they call a 'horizontalist' movement, one with no leaders, no structures, no votes no delegates and so on. This sounds very radical, but is actually totally unworkable. The most important 'principle' for people opposed to the G8 shouldn't be to build structureless organisations, but to build organisations capable of shutting down the G8.

The anarchists do damage to their own cause by refusing to work with socialist groups, other political parties or trade unions because they are 'hierarchical'. They don't vote on anything because voting is 'undemocratic' instead they try and reach consensus where everyone in the meeting agrees on the action. Sounds good, but meetings can be totally paralysed by a couple of people disagreeing and this can make decision making almost impossible. The network's 'Festival Of Dissent' was recently infiltrated by The Times newspaper. The hack declared the gathering to be a 'War Summit' attended by 'anarchists intent on organised violence'. Far from being an organised network of activist with a plan for violence, Dissent's insistence of consensus leaves it floundering in in-decision

REVO is fighting to build a massive, radical, direct action movement that can force the closure of the big imperialist summits - the main problem that Dissent have got themselves into is that their horizontalism means that their political interest is focused more on the process than the end result. Consensus decision making, networking, and strange etiquette at meetings all mean that even if they fail to build massive direct action and protests to shut down the G8, at least the small anarchist clique will have a laugh beforehand. Unfortunately having a laugh seems to be all the anarchist wing of the movement do these days.

Racist election campaign

As the general election draws even closer, it becomes ever clearer that the issue of immigration and asylum is at the centre of a battle between the mainstream media and political parties. What is most worrying about the fight for our attention on the subject is that no significant political or media force actually stands up against immigration controls, or fights to defend the rights of asylum seekers. In every arena that the issue is bought up in, we see the parties and the papers competing with each other around who can most successfully crack down on immigration.

The only time you'll hear a Lib Dem, New Labour or Tory MP talking favourably of immigration is when it is needed to prop up a crisis in the British economy. At the heart of this political position remains the fact that for capitalism to sustain itself, 'freedom of movement' must remain under the dictatorship of the bosses. Rather than the handling of immigration being an issue of building and maintaining a strong welfare and public service infrastructure and tackling the racist prejudice in society, the ruling class will always use it to further divide national and international solidarity, simply honing it as another weapon against the world's working classes.

The continuing rightwards slide on immigration is inherently linked to the interests of the capitalist media. The massive financial power wielded by the likes of Rupert Murdoch and Richard Desmond is pumped into churning out day after day of right wing lies about asylum seekers, immigrants and ethnic minorities. This ensures them a strong stake in setting the government agenda on the issues, whilst simultaneously providing more and more situations they can twist and deform to print in their tabloid rags. The position we are in means that parliamentary political action on immigration cannot be relied on and is entirely exposed to the manipulation of big business and neo-liberal politicians engaged in looking after their own interests. We should by no means fall into the trap of thinking that it is only the likes of the British or White Nationalist Parties who hold racism central to their politics, it is our job as revolutionary socialists to challenge this discrimination at every level of the political spectrum.

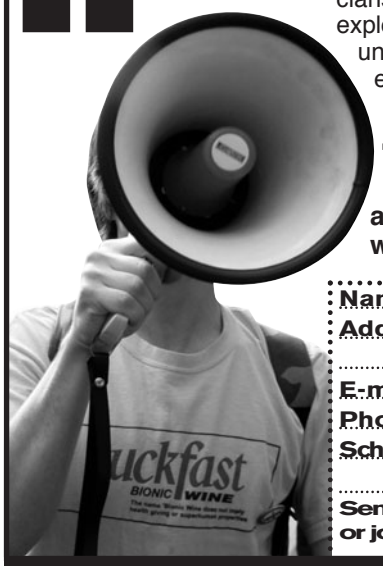
In the forthcoming general election campaign we need to be out engaging with people on why they are anti-immigration, tackling the lies that they are fed by government and the media. This has to be the only way to kick a foothold into the wall of the divisive prejudice protecting the ruling class. A lack of consistent anti-racist campaigning in working class communities remains a massive flaw in the progress of established anti-fascist/racist campaigns. Campaigns like Unite Against Fascism stick firmly to electoral tactics, relying on a tactic of 'Don't Vote BNP'. This completely ignores the fundamentally racist politics of the other parties, and backs away from challenging the racist perceptions of people who do support the fascists. Of course, once the elections are over UAF will disappear back into their shells until its time for the various parties involved to come out and try and salvage votes next year.

We cannot let the electoral focus of pro-immigration campaigning overshadow the work needing to be put into the communities ripped apart by racism and fascism. What we are trying to achieve with the 'You Are Being Lied To About Asylum Seekers' campaign is a grounding of anti-racist feeling and support across whole working class areas. Destroying the evils of racism concerns breaking the barrier imposed by the right-wing media and giving people control of their communities. It cannot be achieved by perpetuating liberal democracy and by simply telling working class people which way to vote.

"are you sick of sweatshops • discrimination • poverty • sexism • war • politicians • racism • boredom • police • big business • exploitation • oppression • Tony Blair • homophobia • unfair laws • third world debt • unemployment • eco-destructi on • rightwing morality • tuition fees • crap jobs • **CAPITALISM??**

then join Revolution

and get the antidote and find out what your local group is up to."



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WHAT WE STAND FOR

The Independent on Sunday got it right in an 'expose' of REVOLUTION's involvement in organising May Day 2001. It said: "REVOLUTION wants to build a revolutionary socialist mass movement and overthrow capitalism." Exactly right. We are opposed to capitalism and the misery, alienation, war and environmental destruction it creates.

We fight all forms of discrimination and oppression, whether on grounds of sex, race, nationality or sexuality.

Capitalism is a global system, so we have to fight it globally. We want to smash the borders and divisions of nations and move forward to a truly global and united humanity, without bigotry, war and class division. We stand shoulder to shoulder with our sisters and brothers in the Third World struggling to break free of the trillion dollar debt, the IMF, WTO and NATO.

We are socialists - we want to abolish capitalism and replace it with a planned economy. But we do not believe that the capitalist elite will allow their wealth and privilege to be voted out of existence. We believe it will take force to take the power and property away from the few and redistribute into the hands of the many - that means a revolution!

REVO wants young people to participate in radical politics and organise themselves. Young people can be very radical and militant, the anti war movement proved that. They should take a lead in the movement that will shape the struggle for the future.

We believe a mass movement must be built based on the support of the majority of the people - the working class. It is the working class that produces all the wealth in this society. The working class has no interest in keeping capitalism going. Only the working class has the power, the size and the traditions of organisation to bring this rotten system crashing down.

JOIN US!